

# Creating Hoosier Jobs

**Protecting and creating Hoosier jobs and businesses were among the issues of most concern in the 2004 General Assembly.** Three bills and a resolution were passed that will aid in the retention and creation of jobs as well as encourage business development and corporate responsibility.

**House Resolution 47** calls on the president and Congress to address a growing trade imbalance that has resulted in the loss of more than 2 million manufacturing jobs in the U.S. since 2001. It asks that trade agreements require that corporations pay fair and competitive wages, respect the rights of workers to unionize, and adopt workplace safety and anti-pollution standards equal to those in our country. The resolution also encourages the federal government to provide economic incentives to sectors that have seen record job losses due to NAFTA, and address the adverse effects on trade caused by countries that artificially lower the value of their currency relative to the dollar.

**House Bill 1080** will help stimulate Indiana's economy by providing a price preference to Indiana businesses for public works and procurement contracts. This piece of legislation will focus on Indiana companies first as suppliers for goods and services the state is interested in purchasing.

**House Bill 1434** will benefit low-income businesses by fostering economic development opportunities by providing grants for training and technical assistance. The microenterprise partnership program created under the bill will provide assistance to businesses with fewer than five employees.

**House Bill 1365** will make the state's research and development tax credit permanent, extend the life of the Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit and create a new fund to encourage investment in new technology. It also calls for a study of eliminating corporate tax loopholes in Indiana law that currently cause tax increases on homeowners and businesses.

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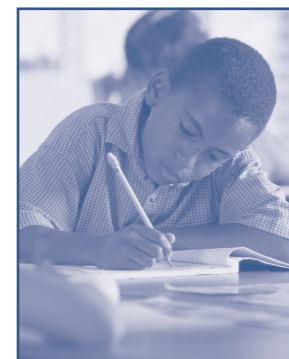


## Helpful information for Fort Wayne families

### Inside this newsletter:



If you worked in  
2003 and earned  
less than \$34,692,  
the government may  
owe you money.



Find out about  
Indiana's 21st  
Century Scholarship  
which guarantees  
free tuition for four  
years at any state  
university.

Spring 2004

Dear Friend,

From child health care to services for senior citizens there are many programs available in our state. The problem is that a good number of people are unaware of them so do not participate or benefit from these programs.

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to call your attention to the Earned Income Tax Credit (state and federal) and the 21st Century Scholars Program. For the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) any wage earner earning less than \$34,692 is eligible for the credit. See details inside.

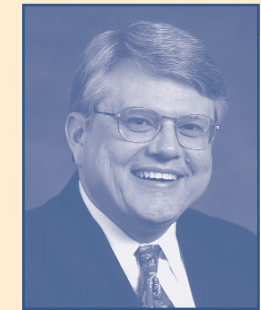
Unlike most programs which assist students planning to attend college during their high school career, the 21st Century Scholars Program enrolls students during their seventh or eighth grade years up to June 30th of either year. Eligibility is based on a combination of income and size of the family. For example a family of four earning up to \$33,400 is eligible, as is a student from a family of six earning \$45,000. Please contact your child's school for more information.

There are of course several college aid programs that high school students going on to college can apply for. Contact your high school guidance department or call the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana at 317-232-2350.

Perhaps your family or someone you know could benefit from either the income tax credit refund or the various student aid programs. If I can be helpful with any of these programs let me know, 800-382-9842.

All the best,

Win Moses





# Could you benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit?

For many Indiana workers, the Earned Income Tax Credit means more money in your pocket.

If in 2003 you worked and earned less than \$34,692, you may be eligible for a tax break equalling up to \$4,204. The average Indiana family received more than \$1,600 in 2001.

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for moderate and low income working families has made the tax code more fair and been a real boost to over 20 million families nationwide, including over 350,000 in Indiana.

A family with two children earning \$20,000 a year receives about a \$2,500 credit. If the credit (\$2,500) is greater than the taxes owed (say \$1,000) that family would receive a refund of \$1,500.

Indiana is one of 17 states that also has a state version of the federal EITC. Ours is six percent of the federal credit. Working families earning less than \$34,692 are eligible for both the federal and state credits.

In addition to the tax savings for 2003, if you were eligible but have not claimed the credit in the past **you are able to back file for the credit for up to three years.**

Income	Single Filer			
	with 1 child		with 2 or more	
	Federal Return	State Return	Federal Return	State Return
\$10,000	\$2,547	\$ 152	\$4,010	\$ 240
\$15,000	\$2,348	\$ 140	\$3,942	\$ 236
\$20,000	\$1,541	\$ 92	\$2,878	\$ 172
\$25,000	\$ 742	\$ 44	\$1,825	\$ 109
\$30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 783	\$ 46

Many individuals who are eligible for the EITC credit do not claim it because they either haven't heard about EITC or do not know how to apply. There are several places you can contact to learn more about the EITC to see if you are eligible for this credit. These include:

**The IRS hotline:** [800-829-1040](tel:800-829-1040)  
**The IRS website:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)  
**The Family and Social Service Administration website:** [www.in.gov/fssa/eitc](http://www.in.gov/fssa/eitc)

For wage earners participating in this program there are two options. One, if a wage earner is income eligible he or she may ask their employer to adjust their withholding statement and have less taxes deducted. Two, the person can claim their credit when filing their tax returns.

For more information on Indiana's EITC, call the Indiana Department of Revenue-Taxpayer Services at 232-2240, option #5. I have listed two tables below which illustrate the refundable tax credit for which you might be eligible.

Income	Joint Filer			
	with 1 child		with 2 or more	
	Federal Return	State Return	Federal Return	State Return
\$10,000	\$2,547	\$ 152	\$4,010	\$ 240
\$15,000	\$2,507	\$ 150	\$4,152	\$ 249
\$20,000	\$1,700	\$ 102	\$3,089	\$ 185
\$25,000	\$ 901	\$ 54	\$2,036	\$ 122
\$30,000	\$ 110	\$ 6	\$ 993	\$ 59

# Indiana has full-tuition awards to offer students pursuing higher education.

For almost 40 years, the state of Indiana has been offering assistance to college-bound students through various grants and scholarships. One of the most exciting programs that the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) currently offers is called the **21st Century Scholars Program**, which is geared toward seventh and eighth graders who have the potential but not the funds to attend college in Indiana.

The 21st Century program gives Scholars full-tuition awards to Indiana's public colleges or universities, or comparable awards to private in-state institutions for up to eight semesters. Scholars may defer their Scholarships for up to two years to pursue the military or other obligations. I have highlighted eligibility and enrollment information below.

SSACI also awards financial aid to senior applicants who file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and qualify for state awards such as the Indiana Higher Education or Hoosier Scholar Award.

If students have any questions, they should be sure to see their school's guidance counselor.

## 21st Century Scholars Program

Household Size	Maximum Income
2	\$22,422
3	\$28,231
4	\$34,010
5	\$39,849
6	\$45,658
For each additional person, add:	\$5,809

To be an eligible 21st Century Scholar, a student must:

- ▶ Be an Indiana resident
- ▶ Be enrolled in the seventh or eighth grade at an accredited Indiana school, and
- ▶ Either meet the income guidelines listed at left, or be a ward of the state

As part of the application for the 21st Century Program, Scholars sign a Pledge of good citizenship and responsible behavior, which requires a commitment to their academic work. The Pledge requires the Scholar to:

- ▶ Remain alcohol, drug and crime free,
- ▶ Graduate from an Indiana high school with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and
- ▶ During the senior year of high school apply for state and federal college financial aid.